

Mart High School

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“A Commitment to Excellence”

December 31, 2024

Parents and Spectators,

Basketball season is now upon us, and it carries with it the same excitement and passion that all Panther fans show when supporting our student-athletes. However, our gymnasium is a much different venue than our stadium. Voices carry, which is wonderful when we are cheering on our students, but detrimental to the sport and integrity of our players and fans when we are using those voices to cuss, belittle, jeer, or personally criticize referees, coaches, or players.

With that being said, it is the expectation of Mart ISD that spectators are at the contest to provide positive verbal support for their team, and to enjoy the skill and competition - **not to complain or to ridicule anyone involved on either side of the court.** Your price of admission gives you just that, admission. It does not give you permission to be anything but respectful in your words and actions. Effective immediately, parents and spectators should be aware that Mart ISD **can and will** remove them from the premises and prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behavior. The first instance that a fan acts inappropriately, they will be asked to leave the event. Fans who continue to be an issue may be legally trespassed from all future Mart ISD events.

The TASO officials organization has implemented a three-strike policy, which states that after three incidents in which any spectator has to be removed at the request of the officials, the organization can refuse to officiate our games. **Without officials, our student-athletes do not play.** Please understand that Mart ISD will ban all spectators before we allow our athletes to be punished for their behavior. We want our kids to be able to play the game, with or without parents and spectators.

It is the Mart Panther expectation that we bring pride and good sportsmanship to every game and set the example for all students and other spectators that Mart Panthers know how to properly cheer for their team. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and for your support and accountability in making this happen.